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Contact: Darren Rogers
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4461 (office)
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)
Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com

**DOWNS AFTER DARK RETURNS TO CHURCHILL DOWNS SATURDAY NIGHT;
THEME IS ‘COUNTRY SALOON’ AS GUESTS READY TO ENJOY HOT COUNTRY NIGHT**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, May 19, 2021) – Kick up your boots, y’all, and get ready to enjoy a hot country night as the popular Downs After Dark presented by Budweiser returns in earnest to Churchill Downs on Saturday night at 6 p.m. (all times Eastern).

The theme for Saturday night’s Downs After Dark is “Country Saloon” as Churchill Downs goes Southwest. Guests are encouraged to dust off the boots and cowboy hats for a western-inspired look.

The spacious 30,000-square-foot Plaza adjacent to the saddling paddock will be the heartbeat of the party. There will be live music on the Plaza Stage throughout the night, including Kyle Eldridge & The Kentucky Cowhands from 5:30-8 p.m. and a mix of new country and pop by Bourbon Straights from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Also, there will be line dancing with professional dancers from Dance Louisville to put guests in a country state of mind.

Guests also will be able to take pictures in front of murals created by local artists inspired by Austin, Texas’ iconic street art, and there will be video projections of Western scenes on the facades of Churchill Downs’ clubhouse once the sun sets.

BBQ is the featured culinary option, and special Margarita and Paloma cocktails will be served.

Admission gates will open Saturday at 5 p.m. and the first of 11 races will begin at 6 p.m. The final race will be 11:10 p.m. and the on-track party will continue in the Plaza area until 11:30 p.m. The last call for alcohol will be post time for the final race of night.

Saturday’s marquee entertainment event is paired with stellar stakes racing action: the \$150,000 Winning Colors (Grade III), a six-furlong sprint for fillies and mares, and the \$110,000 Keertana Overnight Stakes for fillies and mares at 1 ½ miles on turf.

According to the National Weather Service, Saturday’s forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with a high near 88. The low will be around 64.

General admission to Downs After Dark is \$12 and it includes a reserved seat on the first floor and official program. No one under the age of 18 will be admitted to the track unless they are accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Limited premium dining packages are available starting at \$69 per person. Outdoor-third floor box seats are on sale for \$27 per person. Reserved seating can be purchased online at www.ChurchillDowns.com/Tickets.

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